



## ***Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office***

***2640 Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana 47904***

***Telephone: 765-423-9388 Fax: 765-423-4155***

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### **Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office Partners with Seniors in 911 Cell Phone Program**

Lafayette, IN – Sheriff Tracy Brown announced today the establishment of a partner program designed to use citizen participation to help keep Tippecanoe County Safe. The Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Tippecanoe County Council on Aging, is expanding the program to allow for greater distribution opportunities in the county.

The program -- 911 Cell Phones for Seniors -- is currently in use in other areas of the country and is gaining popularity as another method to help fight crime. The program uses cell phones that have been reconditioned and distributed to senior citizens. When a participant witnesses a crime or needs to report an emergency, they dial 9-1-1 and are connected to an emergency dispatcher. Program coordinator Sergeant Doug Caldwell said the program has been customized for use in Tippecanoe County by Sheriff's Volunteers. "We will use an officer referral method or interested participants can contact the Sheriff's Office to inquire about getting a cell phone. Fourteen cell phones have been programmed and are ready to be distributed by the Sheriff's Office" said Sergeant Caldwell. In addition, phones are also collected and distributed through the Senior Center at Jenks Rest in Columbian Park. The program has already distributed over fifty 911 cell phones to area seniors.

Alison M. Greene, Executive Director of Tippecanoe County Council on Aging said, "We are pleased to partner with the Sheriff's Office to reach more seniors who can use this vital link to safety. We are also pleased to accept donations of used cell phones that are sitting around in people's homes gathering dust."

The Sheriff's Office is accepting cell phone contributions. Collection box locations are established at the following locations:

Tippecanoe County Law Enforcement Building, 2640 Duncan Road, Lafayette  
Ivy Tech Community College- Ross Administration Building  
Area IV Agency on Aging 660 North 36th Street, Lafayette  
The Senior Center at Jenks Rest in Columbian Park

For information about Cell Phones for Seniors, contact Sergeant Doug Caldwell at 765-423-9388 or visit [www.tippecanoesheriff.com](http://www.tippecanoesheriff.com) or Alison M. Greene, Executive Director of Tippecanoe County Council On Aging at 447-2311 ext 201 ([alison@tippecanoeseniors.org](mailto:alison@tippecanoeseniors.org))